

Vision				
Leverage existing partnerships focused on supporting families and strengthening communities to prevent child maltreatment				
Strategic Objectives				
Engage existing placed-based, community organizing, & resident-led efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect community strengthening with family-centered and faith-based services to engage families in services, supports, activities and resources before problems escalate. • Highlight needs of vulnerable communities to pilot test new ideas • Support equitable access for families of color, immigrants and others facing challenging circumstances • Encourage participation through community education and outreach • Engage residents in planning to assure that prevention efforts are accountable, coordinated and meet local needs 			
Support earlier access to range of services & supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a system of SPA level navigation hubs so that families can find the help they need and County staff know where to refer families for help when issues fall outside of departmental expertise. • Improve cross-agency information sharing and navigation tools to promote access to education, employment and help with family finances; housing; child care; wellness and recreation; and social and behavioral health services • Highlight services and supports that are accessible in local communities, provided by people who know and represent the community, culturally and linguistically competent. 			
Create a “network of networks” approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on infrastructure developed by the Prevention/Aftercare Networks¹ to identify and sustain partnerships at the local level • Build on existing inventories of available services and document gaps in local service provision in order to expand services where needed. • Assure that service networks connect to local community organizing and place-based efforts so that families have opportunities for community involvement, as well as access to preventive services provided by County departments, CBOs, and other allied agencies. 			
Evaluate effectiveness of prevention approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight data as a primary building block for planning, organizing and evaluating this “network of networks” approach. • Focus on four key outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decreasing social isolation ○ Improving economic supports for families ○ Increasing access to existing resources and services ○ Decreasing reliance on the formal child welfare system 			
Basic Building Blocks	Data	Information Sharing	Training	
Partners	Community Strengthening Initiatives	County Supports/Services	City, School Districts, CBOs & Other Supports/Services	Navigation Hubs (PANs)

¹ The BOS supported DCFS’ Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP) from 2007 - 2014. Promising evaluation findings by Casey Family Programs led DCFS to institutionalize the core ideas in 10 Prevention/Aftercare Networks (8 SPAs and 2 networks specifically for American Indian and Asian Pacific families). The PANs began operation in January 2015.

